

Technical Branch
Miscellaneous Technical Group
Fingerprint Series

LATENT PRINT EXAMINER

03/02 (LBT)

General Purpose

Under general supervision, perform standard and nonstandard latent and known print examination functions.

Typical Duties

Compare, accurately identify and document prints left at crime scenes and those with difficult to discern patterns. Involves: Match known and latent prints through detailed manual analysis or computer mapping and research, and establish identity or non-identity. Ensure use of proper methods to encode known and latent prints into an Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). Compile and maintain statistics on number of latent prints received, matched and unmatched. Maintain various latent prints, fingerprints, and court records and files and update fingerprint database as necessary to accurately reflect current print status. Participate in crime scene analyses and evaluations of materials to determine evidence value. Prepare court exhibits and provide expert testimony on latent print examinations. Interact with law enforcement agencies and official police investigators and the District Attorney's office regarding latent print information. Stay abreast of and utilize accepted standards and innovations in the field of latent print examination such as special photographic techniques. Perform related duties.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Some knowledge of fingerprint science principles, latent print examination, identification and interpretation methods and equipment.
- Some knowledge of AFIS operations, fingerprint processing and record keeping, and court testimony procedures.
- Some knowledge of pertinent Federal, State and local laws, codes and regulations relating to physical evidence.
- Ability to follow prescribed fingerprinting rules or guidelines when participating in crime scene and laboratory analyses and evaluations of evidentiary materials.
- Ability to collect and preserve criminal evidence, examine latent fingerprints and interpret results.
- Ability to communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing, when testifying as an expert witness on fingerprinting evidence and techniques in trials and hearings.
- Ability to perceive the full range of the color spectrum.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with city officials, governmental agencies, coworkers, and the public.

Other Job Characteristics

- Occasional exposure to hazardous chemicals, latent print powders and cleaners, and inclement weather; moving over uneven terrain, bending, stooping, crawling or climbing to collect evidence as instructed at crime scenes.
- Pass drug screening and rigid background investigation.

Minimum Qualifications

Education and Experience: High School diploma or General Educational Development (GED) equivalent; plus completion of Texas Department of Public Safety, Federal Bureau of Investigation, or other recognized agency's forty (40) hour basic fingerprint training course or latent print examination training and one (1) year of experience in latent comparison work or two (2) years experience in known fingerprint identification and AFIS operation, or certification as a Latent Print Examiner by the International Association for Identification.

Personnel Director

Department Head